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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of evaluating an audiovisual sequence, the method being characterized in that it implements:

a) training, comprising allocating a subjective score NS_i to each of N_0 training sequences S_i (where i = 1, 2, ..., N_0) presenting degradations identified by a training vector MO_i comprising objective measurements taken from the signals of the audiovisual sequence which is given to each sequence S_i in application of a first vectorizing method, in order to build up a database of N_0 training vectors MO_i with corresponding subjective scores NS_i;

b) classifying the N_0 training vectors MO_i into k classes of scores as a function of the subjective scores NS_i that have been allocated to them, so as to form k training sets EA_j (where j = 1, 2, ..., k) which have k significant training scores NSR_j allocated thereto;

c) for each audiovisual sequence to be evaluated, generating a vector MO using said first vectorization method; and

d) allocating to the audiovisual sequence for evaluation the significant training score NSR_j that corresponds to the training set EA_j containing the vector that is closest to the vector MO in the sense of vector quantification.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises:

between steps b) and c):

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b1) for each training set EA_j, using a second vectorization method to generate a reference dictionary D_j made up of N_j reference vectors VR_l (where $l = 1, 2, ..., N_j$);

and between steps c) and d):

c1) selecting amongst the reference vectors VR_l of the $\underline{k}$ reference dictionaries, the reference vector VR_e which is closest to said vector MO; and

in that step d) allocates to the audiovisual sequence for evaluation the significant training score NSR_j corresponding to the reference dictionary containing said closest reference vector VR_l.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the significant training scores NSR_j are distributed in uniform manner along the score scale.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the significant training scores NSR_j of at least some of the $\underline{k}$ reference dictionaries are distributed in non-uniform manner along the score scale.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, characterized in that said distribution is such that at least some of the reference dictionaries contain substantially the same numbers of reference vectors.

6. (original) A method according to claim 4 or claim 5, characterized in that it comprises, between step a) and b), identifying k significant training scores NSR_j from subjective scores NS_i each considered as a one-dimensional vector, by finding the minimum distance between the set of the N_0 subjective scores NS_i and the k significant training scores.